(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under investigation with ABB. The investigation involves detailed metallurgical tests which are under process.

Vizag Power Project

2583. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether trouble is brewing for the Vizag power project promoted by the Hinduja National Power;

(b) if so, the main hurdles that are coming in the way of smooth running of this project;

(c) whether the 1040 MW Vizag project has been hanging fire for almost a year now following a lack of consensus on the fuel supply agreement; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Coal Supply & Transportation Agreement has to be negotiated and settled between M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltds. & M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. The provisions of the agreement have also to be acceptable to Railways and Government of Andhra Pradesh. This process has taken time. Government of India have been monitoring the progress and have resolved the major outstanding policy issues relating to the contract.

Fullfledge DD Kendra in Asansol

2584. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to set up a studio at Asansol TV relay centre and make it as a fullfledge DD Kendras;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to fulfil this demand in view of the telecast of local cultural programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) While a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) is already operational at Asansol, a request has been received from the Asansol Chamber of Commerce for setting up of a TV studio Centre there.

(b) to (d) TV Studio Centres are initially being set up in State Capitals and major cities depending on availability of resources and interse priorities. There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a TV Studio Centre at Asansol.

Derailments in Kerala

2585. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the frequent derailments in Kerala;

(b) if so, the number of derailments and accidents occurred during each of the last three years;

(c) the persons killed/injured due to these derailments/ accidents;

(d) the losses occurred to the railway properties; and

(e) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Statistics of trains accidents and related information are maintained railway zone-wise and not State-wise. The relevant information for Southern Railway is as under :

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
No. of accidents (including derailments)	62	52	40
No. of persons killed	39	77	47
No. of persons injured	74	69	29
Cost of damage to Rly. property (Rs. in crores)	2.37	5.24	6.48

(e) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents are as under :

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human errors in causing accidents.

(iii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(iv) For monitoring track geomerty and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.

(v) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vi) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(vii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(viii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(ix) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(x) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.

(xi) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xii) Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Delay in Running of Trains

2586. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received from passengers as well as their association regarding delay in running of trains and cancellation of services between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari section of the Trivandrum Railway Division;

(b) if so, any direction has been issued to ensure timely running of trains in this sector;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any action against those who are responsible for the late running of trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some complaints have been received from Passengars and Associations regarding delay in running of trains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Staff responsible for avoidable detentions have been taken up for action under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Introduction of Direct Trains

2587. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that direct train services between Bandel and Kalyani/Ranaghat/ Krishnanagar can easily be introduced by laying a kilometer of rail line by-passing Naihati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these services can beintroduced by constructing a curve line from Garifa to Halisahar;

(d) if so, the detatils thereof;

(e) whether the earth-work of the said section still exist; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to fulfil the aspiration of a large section of people by constructing this curve line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Full Time Programmes at West Bengal

2588. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to run TV Relay Centre at Kalna in the district of Barddhaman, West Bengal full time;